



BRISTOL BULLETIN

www.rcts.org.uk

No 353 April 2024

Fri 5 April 'East Coast Main Line part 2, by Stephen Gay. Following the East Coast Main Line North from York to Edinburgh Waverley this 205-mile journey calls at the principal stations en-route. The show uses Stephen's recently taken slides complemented with a sprinkling of his own poetry.

Bristol Temple Meads On 3 March 150246 worked 0945 Plymouth-Cardiff Central and 1400 Cardiff Central-Plymouth vice IET.

On 4 March 166204 worked 2C77 12:59 Cardiff to Plymouth 2U32 18:48 Plymouth to Cardiff 2C96 22:30 Cardiff to Bristol TM

On 6 March 165028/031 arrive TM 10.07 and depart 10 14 to Barton Hill.

On 21 March 43357 + 6263 72631 975091 72612 + 43277 1Z18 07:00 Bristol Kingsland Road to Derby

On 21 March 37175 + 96606 977986 977985 999602 9803 6260 + 37219 3Q36 00:09 Westbury to Bristol Kingsland Road via Southampton Central, 43357 + 6263 72631 975091 72612 + 43277 1Z18 07:00 Bristol Kingsland Road to Derby RTC

On 22 March 20901 & 20905 (both BBXX) left Barrow Hill, light engines as 0Z20 from Barrow Hill to Bristol Barton Hill. The repainting of 20901 & 20905 into Balfour Beatty colours is being undertaken by Arriva Traincare at Barton Hill.

On 22 March 37175 + 96606 977986 977985 999602 9803 6260 + 37219 3Q21 22:27 Bristol Kingsland Road to Derby RTC via Swindon / Bath / Bristol Parkway / Oxford, 153311 2Q55 07:20 Kingsland Road to Long Marston

On 26 March 37219 was stabled in Kingsland Road on the north end of a Network Rail Test Train

Bristol Parkway On 9 March 66070 leads Pathfinder Tours charter to Cwmbargoed away from Bristol Parkway 10.35. with 66050 on the rear.

On 16 March 950001 2Z08 09:25 Cardiff Taff Vale to Derby RTC via Bristol Parkway.

Patchway On 2 March 47828+47712 passed Patchway at 1042 with 0656 Nantwich - Portsmouth Harbour 'Portsmouth Harbour Statesman'

On 21 March 67006 was on training duties between Newport and Westbury passing Patchway as 0Z02 from Alexandra Dock Junction to Westbury Down Yard.

Pilning 37884 + 321440 on 5Q96 Pass Pilning, Abelton Lane at 1120 with 1029 Newport Dock (Sims Metals) - Northampton Up sidings stock (for further re use?) move. Unusual to get one going the other way!

Severn Beach Line On 13 March the line was closed at Sea Mills until early afternoon, following the 0923 high tide. NR river Trym Bridge inspection was made. A Turbo was on the other side doing Avonmouth to Severn Beach shuttles.

Bath Spa On 28 February Sleeper ECS up Bathampton at 12.29 with delinquent 57603 DIT behind 57605.

On March 13 1O92 1556 Bath Spa to London Victoria 67021 Pass Bathampton at 15:59 6Z23 1356 Appleford Sidings to Tytherington 60055 "Thomas Barnardo" Pass Bathampton at 16:17

On 27 March 67006 worked the Belmond British Pullman from London Victoria.

Keynsham On 27 March BR green D1924/47810 top n tail LNRW Black 57311 passed Keynsham at 14.11 with Bristol TM – Eastleigh on the previous days Canterbury West railtour ecs.

6M67 68007 + 88005

1 Mar Pass Yatton loops at 1427 with 1408 Bridgwater Yard - Crewe Coal sidings load 2 FNA

Chippenham On March 7 59003 6M50 07:13 Westbury Down Yard - Bescot Up Engineers Sidings Pass Chippenham 08:06

Westbury On 11 March 70009 & 59003 in Westbury DGL at 07:55 ready to depart on:0M50 07:13 Westbury to Bescot

On 21 March 37175 + 96606 977986 977985 999602 9803 6260 + 37219 3Q14 10:21 Westbury to Westbury via Weymouth

Bridgwater During the month the 6V74 01:58 Crewe CLS to Bridgwater FD was worked by 68007+88005 on 1st, 88002+68003 on 4th, 68004+88005 on 7th, 68017+68033 on 18th, 88005+68017 on 21st, 68002+68018 on 25th.

Siemens is investing £100 million in replacing its rail infrastructure centre in Chippenham, which was previously owned by Westinghouse, with a new factory. All 800 staff at the present site will be transferred to the new factory when it is open in 2026. Siemens described its investment as ‘groundbreaking,’ and said it intends to create a ‘cutting-edge rail infrastructure manufacturing, digital engineering and research & development centre’ at SouthPoint Business Park in the Wiltshire town.

The trial of battery technology on the **Greenford Branch** by GWR officially commenced on 18th March, following two weeks of initial testing to prove the compatibility of the train and charging equipment on the branch.

CrossCountry has confirmed that five further Voyager sets have been secured from Beacon Rail, in addition to the seven Class 221s that were announced in October. The 12 extra units will strengthen CrossCountry’s long-distance services from May 2025, increasing capacity on north-south routes by over 36,000 seats per week.

Bristol Area Railtours and Visiting Excursions (Provided in good faith, but not guaranteed accurate!)

Date	Tour	Destination	Haulage	Pick-up	Fare	Operator
Fri 5 Apr	Mid Pullman	Llandudno	HST	TM 08.50	Full	LSE
Sat 13 Apr	Harbourmaster	Robeston Branch	66 TnT	BPW 09.26	Full	UK Railtours

Mon 1 Apr	Mid Pullman	Hull-Derby-TM 11.02/18.04 Paignton			HST	LSE
Sun 7 Apr	Historic Bath	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 12.17/15.54			67	Belmond
Fri 12 Apr	Mid Pullman	Berwick-York-Chesterfield-TM 14.40 Penzance			HST	LSE
Sun 14 Apr	Mid Pullman	Penzance-TM 13.00 Chesterfield-York-Berwick			HST	LSE
Wed 17 Apr	Historic Bath	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56			67	Belmond
Sat 20 Apr	Bath & Bristol	Horsham-Chichester-Salisbury-Bath-TM 13.15/17.10			61306	STDR
Wed 24 Apr	Historic Bath	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56			67	Belmond
Sat 27 Apr	Bath& Glos	Paddington-Reading-Newbury-Bath 11.00/17.30 GCR			Black 5	RYTC

Dates for your Diary

Wed 3 + Wed 10 Apr S&D Mid Norton Wickham Trolley Rides. First train 10.30am Adults £5

Thu 4-Sun 7 Apr Avon Valley Railway 50th Anniversary Weekend. First train dep. Bitton 11.00 2 train service each day & behind the scenes tour of the railway yard. Adult fare £11, con. £10

Sat 13 April East Somerset Railway Miniature Railway will be operating Adult £1

Fri 3 May ‘Railway Holidays in the West Country – Devon & Somerset’. Stuart Warr returns to continue his reminiscences of Railway Holidays in the West Country, this time visiting Devon & Somerset.

Tuesday 11 June Observation Day at Eastleigh Station

Thursday 4 July Observation Day at Nuneaton Station